

Firms Poured in Cash To Set Cubans Free

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By Richard H. Hoenig

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NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (AP) — American business made a substantial contribution to Fidel Castro's last-minute demand for \$2.9 million in cash to assure uninterrupted return of the Cuban invasion prisoners.

A check of 25 of the Nation's largest companies indicated today that individual contributions to the special cash fund raised by Gen. Lucius D. Clay ranged from \$10,000 to \$150,000 and more.

Clay made the loan on his own signature in his capacity as head of a committee that advised and assisted the families of the Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners. Then he sent telegrams to industry leaders, seeking contributions toward the loan.

Unknown Donor

Castro claimed the \$2.9 million was owed him for the release of 60 prisoners in April. Of the total, \$1 million was pledged by an unknown donor solicited by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

The cash fund was separate from the \$53 million in drugs and food also pledged to Castro.

A number of corporations, questioned about contributions to the cash fund, were hesitant about disclosing details of their donation.

But Texaco Inc., Standard Oil Co. (New Jersey) and the Ford Motor Co. Fund Inc., a charitable, nonprofit corporation supported by Ford Motor Co., confirmed they had contributed \$100,000 each to the fund.

Rumor of \$150,000

General Motors was understood to have given \$150,000 but officially the company would not comment.

Socony Mobil said it had contributed \$25,000. Shell Oil Co. said it had made a liberal contribution "although not as much as some of the others."

Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York City said it gave \$10,000 and a spokesman added that a number of banks had taken part in raising the

money. Over the weekend the Dallas Clearing House Association said it had given \$10,000.

Gen. Clay, president of Continental Can Co., declined to make public a list of all donors.

Some industry spokesmen cited several reasons for their hesitancy to say whether they had given money to the fund.

One was the controversial nature of the entire Cuban subject. Another mentioned by several company spokesmen was the fear of stockholder criticism at annual meetings scheduled for the next few months.

Another objection to disclosing particulars, mentioned by Clay, was the fear of being placed upon every solicitation list drawn up for any purpose.